

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

CU-04 AGR-10 DOTE-00 HEW-06 HUD-02 FEA-01 AID-05

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-15 OES-05 SS-15 SP-02

INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 /163 W

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TAGS: UNEP, SENV

SUBJECT: HABITAT - PREPCOM II: DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

REF: USUN 193

1. SUMMARY: PREPCOM PLENARY REVIEWED REVISED TEXT OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IN BRIEF BUSINESSLIKE SESSION WHICH AVOIDED POLEMIC DISCUSSION OF PENDING POLITICAL ISSUES. IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE WERE GENERALLY APPLAUDED, MOST DELS WERE SATISFIED AND HAD ONLY MINOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SUGGEST. 2-3 DELS WOULD PREFER MORE EXTENSIVE REVISION. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ADVANCED INCLUDED IRAQI AMENDMENT TO COVER "HOMELESS DISLOCATED PEOPLE" AND GENERAL SUGGESTION THAT MORE EMPHASIS BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE UN SYSTEM, AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. FOLLOWING THE CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION, HABITAT SYG PENALOSA WILL NOW ENGAGE IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO RESOLVE THE PENDING ISSUES AND TO PRODUCE A TEXT FOR CONSENSUS APPROVAL AT VANCOUVER. END SUMMARY.

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2. PREPCOM II PLENARY CONSIDERED REVISED TEXT PREPARED BY

THE DRAFTING GROUP (A/CONF. 70/PC/L.9) DURING A BRIEF, BUSINESSLIKE SESSION ON JANUARY 21. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION BY INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE (IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING GROUP), 23 REPRESENTATIVES SPOKE, FOR THE MOST PART APPLAUDING THE IMPROVEMENT OVER THE ORIGINAL DRAFT AND PROPOSING ESSENTIALLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES.

3. MOST REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THEIR PREDICTABLE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON THE UNRESOLVED POLITICAL ISSUES (SEE REFTEL) BUT DID NOT ENGAGE IN POLEMIC DEBATE. THERE WAS NO EFFORT TO TAKE A FINAL DECISION ON THESE ISSUES AT THIS SESSION. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (SCHIFF) INTERVENED TO RECALL OUR HOPE THAT IRRELEVANT POLITICAL ISSUES COULD BE AVOIDED AND TO SAY THAT THE U.S.G. WAS NOT PREPARED TO ALTER ITS POSITION ON THESE ISSUES IN THE HABITAT CONTEXT. HE CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL TO FIND WORDING WHICH DID NOT VIOLATE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ANY COUNTRY IN THE INTEREST OF TAKING PRACTICAL AND POSITIVE ACTION WITH REGARD TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROBLEMS.

4. MAJOR PROPOSALS INTRODUCED DURING THIS DEBATE INCLUDED AN IRAQI SUGGESTION TO ADD A NEW PARAGRAPH TO SECTION II (GENERAL PRINCIPLES) AS FOLLOWS: "HOMELESS DISLOCATED PEOPLE, WHETHER DUE TO NATURAL OR MAN-MADE CAUSES SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.". IN ADDITION, SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT THE DRAFT OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL GROUPS, THE UN SYSTEM, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEBATE, THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT THE PREPCOM RECOMMEND TO HABITAT SYG PENALOSA TO CONSULT WITH INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS WITH A VIEW TO COMING UP WITH ACCEPTABLE FORMULATIONS FOR THE STILL PENDING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. IN HIS COMMENTS, SYG PENALOSA NOTED THAT THE DRAFT PROVIDED A GOOD BASIS FOR HIS PREPARING A DOCUMENT WHICH COULD BE APPROVED BY CONSENSUS AT VANCOUVER. WHILE NO FORMAL DECISION WAS TAKEN ON THE CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION, WE ASSUME THAT THE LACK OF SUBSEQUENT COMMENT IMPLIES THAT THE SUGGESTION IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF PREPCOM AND WILL BE FOLLOWED.

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